By Gretta Curtis

 $\underline{\text{http://in.christiantoday.com/articles/russias-plan-to-introduce-religion-in-schools-lauded/4262.htm}$

Earlier this year, the appointment of Aleksandr Dvorkin as chair of Expert Council on Religious Studies raised concern for non-Orthodox Christians, fearing that Russia might return to a "Soviet era" persecution of Christians.

Dvorkin, who is critical of non-Orthodox Christians was given "unprecedented powers" by the Ministry of Justice, according to **the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).**

The move prompted **USCIRF** to add Russia to its watch list for the first time despite having monitored the country's religious freedom for ten years.